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Education

COURSE OF STUDY

FOR

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS;

SPECIAL REPORT

TO THE

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COMMITTEE ON TEXT BOOKS.

BY THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

JULY, 1868.

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REPORT.

To the Committee on Text-Books:

Gentlemen, — In compliance with your request I have prepared, and now respectfully lay before you, the accompanying Course of Study for Grammar Schools. It has been framed as far as seemed practicable in accordance with the views presented to the Board in my last Semi-Annual Report, and it conforms to the text-books now in use. It is hoped that it will be found explicit enough in respect to the *order* in which the studies are to be taken up and pursued. Perhaps it may be thought that the *standard of attainment* requisite for promotion from one class to another, and for graduation, is not expressed with sufficient distinctness. Fearing lest I might go too far in this direction, I may not have gone far enough. But even when the programme shall have been made as definite as it will do to make it, considering that it is to be imperative in its requirements, it will probably be found necessary here, as it has been elsewhere, to supplement it with a carefully prepared Explanatory Manual, setting forth somewhat in detail what is expected to be taught at each step. This manual should take the form of "suggestions or directions to teachers" to be observed as far as circumstances permit, rather than that of positive requirements to be strictly enforced. Such a manual I have not had the time to prepare, and indeed, had I been able to draw up one, it might seem presumptuous in me to submit it without having been desired to do so.

A peculiar feature of the Course here presented is this: General notions and essential practical acquirements are the first things to be attended to, and then, further on, exactness in details, and the discussion of principles.

With this view the pupil is required to go through the spelling book in a short time, in order to give him an opportunity to make some acquaintance with many words. But after going through once in this way he is not expected to get a hundred per cent on a test examination. To get fifty or sixty per cent would be doing very well. In pursuing Arithmetic on the plan here proposed, it is not expected that pupils will be able readily to demonstrate all the principles involved until they arrive at the last year of the course, but that they should be taught the common operations, in a practical way, making use of small numbers, and comparatively easy examples. The Readers are not to be used merely as manuals of elocution all the time that can be spared for this branch being devoted to drilling upon a few select pieces. They should be employed as manuals of knowledge and of language, as well as of elocution, and so should be read through. Spelling and writing are to occupy much time in the early part of the course, and little in the last part of it. Mental arithmetic is to be used as strictly auxiliary to written arithmetic at each step of the course, from the beginning to the end.

Such in general is the nature of the plan. It is intended to remedy to some extent an evil that has been developed in the graded system of schools, — the evil of keeping children marking time, stepping but not moving forward. If this plan is adopted and fairly carried out, I believe it will prove a great boon to our schools. If it is not adopted I hope some better one will be substituted for it.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN D. PHILBRICK,

Superintendent of Public Schools.

COURSE OF STUDY FOR GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

SIXTH CLASS.

BOOKS.

Hillard's Fourth Reader; Worcester's Spelling Book; Payson & Dunton's, or A. R. Dunton's Writing Books; Warren's Primary Geography; Eaton's Intellectual Arithmetic; Kerl's First Lessons in English Grammar [for teachers only]; Hohmann's Practical Course in Singing, Part II.; Bartholomew's Drawing Books, new series.

STUDIES.

READING. — The Fourth Reader, all the pieces; special attention to fluency of utterance, distinctness of articulation, correctness of pronunciation, and the points and marks of punctuation; practice on the exercises in the introduction; the Spelling and Defining Lessons to be omitted.

SPELLING. — Through the Spelling Book, omitting the Exercises for Writing, each lesson being *read* by the class *before* it is given out for study; a sentence from the reading lesson written daily from dictation.

WRITING. — Three writing books, numbers one, two and three, with analysis of letters.

ARITHMETIC. — Written Arithmetic through the operations of the ground rules and reduction, with simple practical questions, involving small numbers; Mental Arithmetic carried along in connection with Written, the same topic in both kinds being taught at the same time [sections first and second].

GEOGRAPHY. — Reading half through the Primary text-book with conversational illustrations; rudiments of map-drawing, showing how geographical objects are represented by symbols, taking as subjects for practice the school-room, the school-yard, the Common, the Public Garden, and the outline map of the State; the globe used to illustrate the form, magnitude and rotation of the earth, the position of the axis, poles, zones, and principal circles.

GRAMMAR. — Oral instruction in distinguishing the noun, the adjective, and articles; exercises in correcting common grammatical errors; practice in the use of capitals.

COMPOSITION. — Letter-writing on the slate once a week.

MORALS AND MANNERS. — By anecdotes, examples and precepts, and by amplifying and applying the hints and suggestions relating to these topics contained in the reading lessons.

VOCAL MUSIC. — Musical notation, singing, and exercises on the music charts — ten minutes each day.

VOCAL AND PHYSICAL CULTURE. — Exercises as arranged by the Director in this department — ten minutes each session.

DRAWING. — Lines and angles and plane geometrical figures, as in Drawing Book number one.

ORAL INSTRUCTION. — Weights and measures, and articles of clothing and food. Conversations on the reading lessons, as follows: Lessons 7, 11, 26, 42, 43, 44, 51, 52 and 58.

FIFTH CLASS.

BOOKS.

Hillard's Intermediate Reader; Worcester's Spelling Book; Payson & Dunton's, or A. R. Dunton's Writing Books; Eaton's Common School Arithmetic, revised edition, and Eaton's Intellectual Arithmetic; Warren's Primary Geography; Kerl's First Lessons in English Grammar [for teachers only]; Hohmann's Practical Course in Singing, Part II.; Bartholomew's Drawing Books, new series.

STUDIES.

READING. — The Intermediate Reader, all the pieces; practice on the exercises in the Introduction on articulation, pronunciation, accent, emphasis, and inflection; and attention to their application in the reading lessons; the Defining Lessons to be omitted.

SPELLING. — Through the Spelling-book, with definitions of words from page 109 to page 130, omitting the Exercises for Writing; a sentence from the reading lesson written daily from dictation.

WRITING. — Four writing books, numbers one, two, three and four, with analysis of letters.

ARITHMETIC. — Written Arithmetic, vulgar fractions, and decimal fractions, with simple practical questions involving small numbers; Mental Arithmetic carried along in connection with Written, the same topic in both kinds being taught at the same time [sections third and fourth].

GEOGRAPHY. — Reading of the text-book with conversational illustrations completed; drawing of outline maps from memory of each of the New England States; use of the globe, continued.

GRAMMAR. — Oral lessons on distinguishing the parts of speech, completed; correcting errors; sentence-making.

COMPOSITION. — Letter-writing on paper once in two weeks, with occasional abstracts of geography lessons.

MORALS AND MANNERS. — As in the preceding class.

VOCAL MUSIC. — Musical notation continued, singing, and exercises on the music charts — fifteen minutes each day.

VOCAL AND PHYSICAL CULTURE. — As in the preceding class.

DRAWING. — Lines and angles, and plane geometrical figures, as in Drawing Book number two.

ORAL INSTRUCTION. — The National Flag, the national and State [Mass.] coats of arms; the parts of a vessel with the distinctions between the different kinds of sailing vessels, and between the different kinds of steam vessels; biographical sketches of Washington and Franklin.

FOURTH CLASS.

BOOKS.

Hillard's Fifth Reader; Worcester's Spelling Book; Payson & Dunton's, or A. R. Dunton's Writing Books; Eaton's Common School Arithmetic, revised edition, and Eaton's Intellectual Arithmetic; Warren's Primary Geography; Kerl's First Lessons in English Grammar [for teachers only]; Hohmann's Practical Course in Singing, Parts III. and IV.; Bartholomew's Drawing Books, new series.

STUDIES.

READING. — Fifth Reader to page 200, all the pieces, with special reference to their meaning and the information they contain; Definition Lessons at the end of the pieces.

SPELLING. — Through the Spelling-book; in the Exercises for Writing, the words italicized to be written from dictation, the phrases and sentences in which they occur being read by the teacher in order to indicate their meaning and application; a sentence from the reading lesson written daily from dictation.

WRITING. — Four writing books, numbers two, three, four and five, with analysis of letters.

ARITHMETIC. — Written Arithmetic, Federal money and compound numbers with questions as in fifth class; Mental Arithmetic carried along in connection with Written, the same topic in both kinds being taught at the same time. [sections fifth and sixth].

GEOGRAPHY. — A general view of the geography of the world with Mercator's map, and the globe, — the oceans, seas and principal gulfs and bays; the continents, grand divisions, and largest islands; the most important ranges of mountains, with the plateaus and low plains; the water-sheds, chief rivers and lakes, with their basins; map-drawing from memory, of the map of the United States, by progressive steps.

GRAMMAR.—Oral lessons on modifications of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs; correcting errors; sentence-making.

COMPOSITION.—On paper once in two weeks, abstracts of oral lessons alternating with letter writing.

DRAWING.—Drawing Book number one, the course of the sixth class being repeated.

MORALS AND MANNERS, VOCAL MUSIC, VOCAL AND PHYSICAL CULTURE, as in the preceding class.

ORAL INSTRUCTION.—Rectangular and spherical solids; buildings, the different kinds, and the materials used in their construction; object lessons on ten metals, ten specimens of the most useful woods, and on ten kinds of rocks.

THIRD CLASS.

BOOKS.

Hillard's Fifth Reader; Worcester's Spelling Book; Payson & Dunton's, or A. R. Dunton's Writing Books; Eaton's Common School Arithmetic, revised edition, and Eaton's Intellectual Arithmetic; Warren's Common School Geography; Kerl's Comprehensive English Grammar; Hullah's adaptation of Wilhelm's Method of Teaching Vocal Music, with additions by Sharland; Bartholomew's Drawing Books, new series.

STUDIES.

READING.—Fifth Reader completed in the manner prescribed for the preceding class.

SPELLING.—Spelling Book reviewed by selecting words to be written from dictation twice a week, no lessons being given out for study; a sentence from the reading lesson written daily from dictation.

WRITING.—Four writing books, numbers three, four, five and

six, with analysis of letters, and practice while sitting in three different positions, viz: right side at the desk, left side at the desk, and facing the desk.

ARITHMETIC. — Written Arithmetic, percentage with its applications, the easier practical problems being performed; Mental Arithmetic, in connection with Written, the same topic in both kinds being taught at the same time [sections eighth and ninth].

GEOGRAPHY. — The United States; the climate, physical features and productions of the different sections; the thirty largest cities; their location, their natural advantages and disadvantages, and the peculiar characteristics of the business carried on in each; outline map of each state drawn from memory.

GRAMMAR. — Etymological Parsing; inflections and definitions learned from the text-book; correcting errors, especially such as are violations of the principles of etymology; sentence-making.

COMPOSITION. — Once a month on some topic embraced in oral instruction; business papers, such as letters, orders, bills of purchase, receipts, promissory notes, drafts, advertisements, invitations, etc.

DRAWING. — Drawing book number two, the course of the fifth class repeated.

VOCAL MUSIC. — One hour a week, instruction by the special teacher.

MORALS AND MANNERS, AND VOCAL AND PHYSICAL CULTURE, as in the preceding class.

ORAL INSTRUCTION. — Air, water, respiration, municipal and State governments, courts of justice; historical sketches, Pericles, Chatham, Jefferson, Samuel Adams, and Lincoln.

SECOND CLASS.

BOOKS.

Hillard's Sixth Reader; Payson & Dunton's, or A. R. Dunton's Writing Books; Eaton's Common School Arithmetic,

revised edition, and Eaton's Intellectual Arithmetic; Warren's Common School Geography; Kerl's Comprehensive English Grammar; Swan's First Lessons in the History of the United States; Hullah's Adaptation of Wilhelm's Method of Teaching Vocal Music, with additions by Sharland; Bartholomew's Drawing Books, new series.

STUDIES.

READING. — Sixth Reader, to page 200, with practice on the examples in the Introduction. Expressive reading to be aimed at in connection with the study of the thought and emotion of the pieces.

SPELLING. — In connection with the other studies, the new and difficult words that occur, to cultivate the habit of *observing the orthography of words;* instruction in the significance of prefixes and affixes; a weekly exercise in writing passages dictated from the Reader.

WRITING. — One writing book, number seven of Payson & Dunton's, or number eight of A. R. Dunton's.

ARITHMETIC. — Written Arithmetic, proportion and square root, with a review of all the preceding subjects, performing a few selected examples *to illustrate the principles;* Mental Arithmetic, seventh section.

GEOGRAPHY. — The continents; map of each drawn from memory, representing the boundaries of the countries; separate memory maps of the principal countries of Europe; problems on the globe.

GRAMMAR. — Syntactical Parsing, the rules learned in connection with their application; exercises in correcting errors, especially such as are violations of the principles of syntax; sentence-making.

COMPOSITION. — Once a month, the subject to be developed by conversation, in connection with oral lessons; business papers as in class four.

Drawing. — Simple objects in outline, elements of perspective, as in Drawing Book number three.

Declamation, for Boys. — Twice each term.

History. — United States, read, — some dates and facts learned to be recited.

Morals and Manners, Vocal Music, and Vocal and Physical Culture, as in the preceding class.

Oral Instruction. — The solar system, the properties of matter, the mechanical powers; historical sketches, the crusades, the discovery of America, the Declaration of Independence.

FIRST CLASS.

BOOKS.

Hillard's Sixth Reader; Payson and Dunton's, or A. R. Dunton's Writing Books; Eaton's Common School Arithmetic; revised edition, and Eaton's Intellectual Arithmetic; Warren's Common School Geography; Kerl's Comprehensive English Grammar; Worcester's History; Hullah's Adaptation of Wilhelm's Method of Teaching Vocal Music, with additions by Sharland; Bartholomew's Drawing Books, new series; Worcester's Dictionary.

STUDIES.

Reading. — Sixth Reader completed as in the preceding class.

Spelling. — As in the preceding class.

Writing. — One writing book, number eleven of Payson & Dunton's, or number seven of A. R. Dunton's.

Arithmetic. — Written Arithmetic, cube root; review with special reference to *the discussion of the principles;* some review of Mental Arithmetic.

Geography. — A few lessons in review of the continents and the United States, with special reference to political geography

and commercial relations; maps of the United States as a whole and in sections, and the countries of Europe, drawn from memory.

GRAMMAR. — Syntactical Parsing and analysis of sentences; exercises in correcting false syntax.

COMPOSITION. — As in the preceding class.

HISTORY. — Outline of the History of England by topics.

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY. — Outlines of the properties of matter, motion, mechanics, hydrostatics, pneumatics, sound, heat, optics, electricity and magnetism.

PHYSIOLOGY. — By oral instruction, circulation, respiration, digestion, and secretion, with practical hygiene.

DRAWING. — Simple objects in outline, and elements of perspective, continued — Drawing Book number four.

MORALS AND MANNERS, VOCAL MUSIC, AND VOCAL AND PHYSICAL CULTURE, as in the preceding class.

BOOK-KEEPING. — By single entry.

CONSTITUTION of the United States and the Constitution of the State read with conversational explanations.